

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3531

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 3717

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (FORD, GERALD F)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

1. AT HIS REQUEST, I CALLED ON TITO'S CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, MIRKO MULUTINOVIC AFTERNOON JULY 18, PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS PRESIDENT'S VISIT. HE BEGAN BY EMPHASIZING THAT TITO IS VERY PLEASED THAT PRESIDENT IS COMING. TITO HAS ACCEPTED THE SUGGESTED TIMING, THOUGH DISAPPOINTED THAT PRESIDENT CANNOT STAY LONGER, AND SUGGESTED BELGRADE AS SITE OF VISIT. MILUTINOVIC SAID TITO AGREES TO MAKING ANNOUNCEMENT AT EARLIEST AGREED TIME. MILUTINOVIC OUTLINED FOLLOWING AS PRELIMINARY YUGOSLAV THINKING ON PROGRAM:

2. SINCE TIME IS SHORT, YUGOSLAVS HOPE FIRST ROUND OF TALKS CAN TAKE PLACE ON AFTERNOON AUGUST 3. SITE OF TALKS WILL BE EITHER FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (FEC) BUILDING, WHICH IS AIR-CONDITIONED, OR WHITE PALACE, WHICH IS MORE ELEGANT. TITO WILL GIVE STATE DINNER IN EVENING IN FEC BUILDING. PROGRAM WILL BEGIN FAIRLY EARLY ON AUGUST 4 IN ORDER TO INCLUDE CEREMONIAL EVENTS WHICH MILUTINOVIC DESCRIBED AS OBLIGATORY FOR PRESIDENT'S FIRST VISIT-- LAYING OF WREATH AT TOMB OF UNKNOWN HERO ON MOUNT AVALA IN OUT-SKIRTS OF BELGRADE; PLANTING TREE IN PEACE PARK IN NEW BELGRADE; AND RECEPTION OF DELEGATION TO PRESENT PRESIDENT WITH GOLD PLAQUE OF CITY. TITO WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER THE PRESIDENT WISHES A BRIEF RECEPTION FOR DIPLOMATIC CORPS WHICH IS CUSTOMARY, WITH OR WITHOUT WIVES. NEXT WOULD COME SECOND ROUND OF TALKS, PERHAPS FOLLOWED BY MEETING OF TWO PRESIDENTS WITH PRESS AND CAMERAMEN. INFORMAL LUNCH WOULD BE ATTENDED BY PRINCIPALS OF TWO SIDES.

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3. A SEPARATE PROGRAM WILL BE ARRANGED FOR MRS. FORD ACCORDING TO HER WISHES. MADAME BROZ WILL GLADLY ACCOMPANY HER ON A VISIT TO MUSEUMS, SHOPPING, A STROLL IN TOWN, OR FOR CONVERSATIONS. MILUTINOVIC EMPHASIZED NEED TO HAVE INDICATION OF MRS. FORD'S PREFERENCES SOONEST FOR PROGRAM AND DRESS (E.G., WILL SHE WEAR HAT TO ANY OF FUNCTIONS PLANNED?). HE ALSO INQUIRED WHETHER MRS. FORD WILL BE AT HELSINKI (THIS MAY BE FOR PURPOSES OF ARRANGING SHORT MEETING), AND I UNDERTOOK TO ASCERTAIN.

4. MILUTINOVIC URGED ME NOT TO BE SHY IN CONVEYING PRESIDENT'S WISHES. YUGOSLAVS WANT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO WHATEVER HE WANTS. MILUTINOVIC SAID WE COULD COUNT ON FULL COOPERATION FROM YUGOSLAV SIDE.

5. VISIT THOUGH SHORT, WILL BE ACCORDED "FULL HONORS". HE SUGGESTED WHITE HOUSE PARTY COULD BE ACCOMMODATED IN WHITE PALACE. OTHER NEARBY DEDINJE VILLAS CAN ALSO BE PLACED AT DISPOSAL OF SECRETARY AND OTHER HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS IF PRESIDENT DESIRES. (WE ASSUME DEPT HAS FLOOR PLAN OF WHITE PALACE FROM PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT HERE IN 1970; IF NOT WE CAN PROVIDE DESCRIPTION) REMAINDER OF PARTY WILL BE PUT UP IN HOTEL YUGOSLAVIA.

6. IN ADDITION TO ASCERTAINING WISHES OF PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD, MILUTINOVIC ASKED ME TO OBTAIN ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE: EXACT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES; FULL LIST OF OFFICIAL PARTY; AT LEAST 24 HOURS NOTICE ON ARRIVAL OF ADVANCE PARTIES
(IN THIS CONNECTION HE SAID IT IS PREFERABLE IF ALL MEMBERS OF ADVANCE PARTIES OBTAIN VISAS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL, BUT SAID IN EMERGENCY YUGOSLAVS WILL ISSUE VISAS AT AIRPORT); NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS IN TALKS.

7. ON SUBJECT OF TALKS, MILUTINOVIC PROPOSED ARRANGING SEPARATE PRIVATE MEETING FOR TWO PRESIDENTS WITH ONLY INTERPRETERS PRESENT, DURING ONE OR TWO SESSIONS, WHILE PARALLEL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OTHER OFFICIALS TAKE PLACE. HE SUBTLY IMPLIED THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT IS TITO'S PERSONAL PREFERENCE, AND BASED ON WHAT I HAVE REPORTED ON THE BRANDT-TITO MEETINGS, TITO PROBABLY SEES THIS AS BEST WAY TO "DRAW THE MEASURE" OF THE PRESIDENT.

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8. MILUTINOVIC IS GOING TO BRIONI TO SEE TITO ABOUT THE VISIT ON JULY 21 AND HOPES TO HAVE AN APPROVED, DETAILED PROGRAM DRAFT TO ME BY JULY 23. I WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING BY JULY 21 RESPONSES TO AS MANY OF THE POINTS RAISED ABOVE AS POSSIBLE, SO THEY CAN BE INCORPORATED INTO YUGOSLAV PLANNING.
SILBERMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CAT-A
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BELGRA03717
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850033-1933, N750002-0173
From: STATE BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750738/aaaabhye.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT
TAGS: OVIP, YO, (FORD, GERALD R), (MULUTINOVIC, MIRKO), (FORD, GERALD F)
To: BELGRADE SS STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006